

**Abstract of the Invention**

A data compression system is provided in accordance with the present invention. The system includes a scanning component which scans at least a portion of a transformed image. The scan is performed substantially in a horizontal direction on a first section of the portion and in a vertical direction on a second section of the portion to enable improved data compression of the transformed image. The horizontal and vertical scan directions are performed *via* a contiguous scan of the respective sections to further enable improved data compression of the transformed image.